

## **20-05/Topic 53-19**

### ***State DOT Product Evaluation Processes***

Allocation: \$45,000

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A common practice among state departments of transportation (DOTs) is to evaluate the potential application and long term performance of many products and materials. As there is no standard approach on product evaluation, agencies have developed their own methods and procedures and may or may not have staff dedicated to the product evaluation process. Variation exists among DOT Product Evaluation Programs (PEPs) regarding the time allocated to initial product application review and technical product review, post-product performance evaluation, and formal pathways to evaluate future iterations of similar products. A growing number of DOTs have begun streamlining these processes and initial successes have included reduced evaluation time.

The objective of this synthesis is to document current DOT practices, policies, tools, management techniques, and workflows with regard to the product evaluation process.

Information to be gathered includes (but is not limited to):

- Policies and practices regarding product evaluation;
- Tools and workflows used in the product evaluation process;
- Process management requirements;
- Application requirements and rules;
- Typical review timelines;
- Technical worksheets and typical submittal information;
- Categorizations of products submitted for evaluation;
- Relevant procurement policies;
- Structure of DOT approved products lists (APLs); and,
- Types of products which are approved.

Information will be collected through literature review, a survey of DOTs, and follow-up interviews with selected agencies for the development of case examples. Information gaps and suggestions for research to address those gaps will be identified.

#### **Information Sources (Partial):**

- State product evaluation websites, for example (not an exhaustive list):
  - Pennsylvania New Product Evaluation and Tracking System (NPETS);
  - North Carolina Product Evaluation Program (PEP); and
  - Caltrans Product Evaluation Program (PEP)